

Amendments to the Specifications

Please make the amendments listed below in the text. The amended requirements on the drawings are shown in the attached drawings in red. The drawings required for publication are in the transparent envelopes.

Page 1 in the paragraph under the heading BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION line 2, These problems generally cause or allow displacement or rotation of the vertebrae, relative to the adjacent vertebra reducing the disc space and putting pressure on the nerves causing pain.

Page 1 in the paragraph under the heading BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION line 3, The objective of spinal implants is to facilitate realignment, restore the disc space height, and/or fixation of the spinal elements for fusion.

Page 2 line 19, of the original filing, appl. Pub. 2002/0107519 paragraph 0007 lines 2 - 3 patent discloses a tube 60 with tangs 61, which are driven

Page 2 line 19 app ¶ 0007 lines 3 - 4
or hammered into the disc space as shown in FIG.11. It does not

Page 2 line 20 - 21 app. ¶ 0007 lines 5 - 6
and it has no clearance ~~undercuts~~ notches having 2 sides. To avoid the vertebral protrusions. The tang distracts on the protrusion as shown in FIG. 11.

Page 2 line 24 app. ¶ 0008 lines 2 - 3
hammered into the vertebrae disc space. This system does not have a means of distracting the disc space height. Experience has shown that these

Page 3 line 6 , app. ¶ 0009 line 7
...the vertebra. The distractor has notches 35 with two sides 42 to provide clearance for the vertebral protrusion 62 to and assure distraction on the vertebral end plates. This distraction...

Page 3 lines 9 and 10 ¶ 0009 lines 13

The distractor stems may also act as soft tissue retractors. The distractor acting directly on the vertebral and parallel to the vertebral end plates allows accurate positioning

Pages 4 and 5 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 6 is a sectional view, along the line 6-6 of FIGS. 1 and 7, of a vertebral

FIG. 6a is a sectional view, along the line 6a-6a of FIG. 1, showing the flange, flange clamp, clamp screw, and a distractor.

FIG 7 is an ~~anterior~~ view showing the flange attached, holding the distraction. The disc space, the vertebral end plates, and the vertebral protrusion are visible.

FIG. 11 shows a prior art tang which has been hammered in to the disc space between adjacent vertebrae for distracting.

Page 6 line 3 app. ¶ 0028 lines 14 - 15

With single piece tang-distractor tube systems, as shown in FIG 11, the tube cannot be removed for inspection without releasing the distraction.

Page 6 line 7 ¶ 0030 lines 1 - 2

FIGS. 4 ~~and 5~~ show's paddle type distractors 31 inserted into the disc space. When the distractor is rotated 90 degrees,

Page 6 lines 8 and 9 ¶ 0030 lines 3 - 4

height is restored to allow for preparation and implantation between two adjacent vertebrae end plates 47 and 48. The distal end of the

Page 6 line 10 ¶ 0030 line 6 - 7

separating the disc and facilitating the placement of the distractors. The distractors centering disk 52 centers the flange hole with the vertebral end plates seen FIG 5. The notches 30 having 2 sides 42 to prevent the distractor from contacting the protrusion.
The distractors also act as soft tissue retractors.

Page 6 line 16 app. ¶ 0032 lines 6 – 7

25 and 26 to maintain the vertebra's distracted relative position

Page 6 lines 17 – 18 app. ¶ 0032 lines 8 and 9

implanting operations are taking place. Attaching the flange, ~~without~~ before the a guide tube is in place allows the surgeon ...

Page 6, lines 23 and 24 app. ¶ 0033 line 4

debris. No other stabilizing system gives the surgeon this open access.

Page 7 line 2, app. ¶ 0033 lines 12 - 13

distractors from the side, as shown figure 2.

Page 7 line 3 app. ¶ 0033 line 13

This stabilizing system, with flange 33

Page 7 lines 4 – 5 app. ¶ 0033 line 15 - 16

vertebral protrusion 62 shown in FIGS. 5 and 3d, this ~~will~~ allows the flange

Page 7 line 6 app. ¶ 0033 line 19

ultimately the guide tube 34. Once in place the flange is clamped to the distractors 31 with the clamp screw 41 threaded through the clamp 45 attached to the flange 33.
and/or attached to the vertebra with attachment screws threaded into the bone.

Page 7 line 13, app. ¶ 0035 line 9

appropriate amount of vertebral end plate and bone from each adjacent.

Page 8 line 14.

Autograph materials. Metal and bone dowels are commercially available in many sizes from several sources. Several sizes...

Page 9 line 2 app. ¶ 0042 line 7

flange clamps 45 ~~to~~ by clamping screws 41 thread through the clamp to eliminate the